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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, CB, US

SUBJ: STAFFDEL INTEREST IN U.S. AERIAL RECONNAISSANCE

REF: STATE 43508

1. FOLLOWING DESCRIBES DISCUSSIONS OF AERIAL RECONNAISSANCE
BY STAFFDEL BRADY - SULLIVAN.

2. AT USSAG STAFFDEL ASKED ABOUT EXTENT OF AERIAL RECON-
NAISSANCE (AR) AND WAS TOLD USSAG DIRECTED AR OVER SOUTH
VIETNAM AND CAMBODIA, BUT NOT NORTH VIETNAM. THEY WERE
TOLD THAT AS LONG AS USSAG HAD THE MISSION OF REINTRODUCING
AIR UNITS INTO INDOCHINA IT WAS ESSENTIAL TO CONDUCT AR OF
THIS SORT. STAFFDEL DID NOT QUARREL WITH THIS LOGIC, BUT
INDICATED CONGRESS MIGHT BE SKEPTICAL ABOUT THE WISDOM OF
MAINTAINING COMMAND IN INDOCHINA WITH THIS MISSION.
SIMILAR DISCUSSION TOOK PLACE AT EMBASSY.

3. AT 13TH ADVON, BRADY AND SULLIVAN RAISED ONLY ONE
QUESTION. THEY ASKED IF RG-4S WERE CARRYING BOMBS.
THEY WERE TOLD NO. IN ADDITION THEY INSPECTED SEVERAL
RG-4S ON THE GROUND AT UDORN. STAFFDEL REMARKED THAT THEY
COULD SEE WHERE AN OBSERVER COULD MISTAKE THE PODS AND
EXTERNAL FUEL TANKS FOR BOMBS. THEY WERE ASSURED THERE
ARE NO BOMBS ON THE RECCE AIRCRAFT.

4. STAFFDEL WAS NOT HOSTILE DURING QUESTIONING BUT WAS
GENERALLY PESSIMISTIC ABOUT WILLINGNESS OF CONGRESS TO
CONTINUE TO SUPPORT OR TOLERATE ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATED WITH
INDOCHINA. THEY DID NOT INDICATE THERE WOULD BE A CON-
GRESSIONAL ATTACK DIRECTED SPECIFICALLY AGAINST AERIAL
RECONNAISSANCE AS BEING IN VIOLATION OF PARIS ACCORDS OR
CONGRESSIONAL INTENT. KINTNER

State Dept. review completed